FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 1, 2007

Phone:

(808) 547-7000

COUNCILMEMBERS RESPOND TO ANOTHER COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

Council Chair Barbara Marshall removes Councilmember Charles Djou as the powerful Zoning Committee Chair and replaces him with Councilmember Rod Tam.

Honolulu—For fear of losing the council chairmanship, Council Chair Barbara Marshall issued a memo this afternoon reorganizing the City Council again, following changes made to the Transportation Committee just two weeks ago. Councilmember Charles Djou was removed as the powerful Zoning Committee Chair and replaced with Councilmember Rod Tam. Barbara Marshall became chair at the beginning of the year, four months ago.

"This is absurd. Barbara used to be focused on good public policy. Now she's obsessed with petty politics," said Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz. "I would hope we all do what's in the best interest of the public, unfortunately this isn't the case." Just last week was Dela Cruz was removed from the Transportation Committee for questioning the administrations ferry proposal, even though the FTA had similar concerns.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi also responded to the removal of Djou from the powerful zoning committee saying, "Charles is fair, reasonable and even-handed. For Barbara to punish him for being independent is a travesty. The public is not being served well under the current leadership." Kobayashi also was removed from the Transportation Committee last week after being accused of being independent-minded.

######